

surface and the surface becomes more hydrophilic. Neither reference describes patterning substrates comprising microfluidic channels as described in claims 91 and 92.

Accordingly, in view of the above arguments, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully request early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

8/14/03

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